

REMARKS

Claims 1-19 have been withdrawn. Claims 20-33 are thus currently pending in this application. Claim 20 has been amended.

Election/Restrictions


Claim 1-19 were identified as being drawn to a method of troubleshooting an ablation system while claims 20-33 were identified as being drawn to an ablation system. Applicant affirms the election of claims 20-33.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 20-22 and 26-33 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,540,681 to *Strul et al.*

Amended independent claim 20 is directed to an ablation system that includes a processor that is programmed to prevent the output of power signals in the absence of the verification of any one of 1) a connection between the power control system and the patient return electrode; 2) adequate contact between the patient return electrode and the biological tissue; 3) a connection between the power control system and the computer and 4) a connection between the power control system and the EP monitoring system.

Strul et al. discloses an ablation system having a processor that inhibits RF power commands in the event of a low catheter impedance measurement or a previously used catheter condition. (See column 11, lines 54-57 and 64-65; figure 6A, path C.) *Strul et al.* does not disclose the inhibition of RF power commands, i.e., the prevention of the output of power signals, in the absence of the verification of a connection between the power control system and the computer or a connection between the power control system and the EP monitoring system, as recited in claim 20.



In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that *Strul et al.* fails to disclose each and every element of the invention claimed in independent claim 20. Accordingly, Applicant

requests reconsideration of the §102 rejections of independent claim 20 and dependent claims 21, 22, and 26-33.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

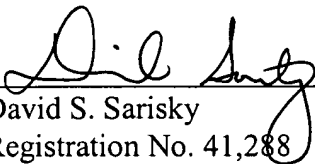
Claims 23-25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Strul et al.* in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,416,276 to *Newton et al.*

In view of the foregoing analysis of independent claim 20 in view of *Strul et al.*, Applicant believes that the rejections under §103 are rendered moot as dependent claims 23-25 depend from an allowable independent claim.

CONCLUSION

Applicant has made an earnest and bona fide effort to clarify the issues before the Examiner and to place this case in condition for allowance. Therefore, reconsideration and allowance of all of Applicant's claims 20-33 are believed to be in order and an early Notice of Allowance to this effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
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